



Kangley-Echo Lake

500-kV Transmission Line Project

The Bonneville Power Administration is committed to providing reliable power to the Northwest region. BPA is proposing to build new transmission infrastructure projects to improve the delivery of power to meet existing and future power needs. The Kangley-Echo Lake project is needed to improve system reliability in the King County area and to enhance the return of power to Canada as required by the Columbia River Treaty. This is one of several critical projects BPA has planned to assure a reliable transmission grid in the Northwest.

Project Description

The Bonneville Power Administration has completed the new Kangley-Echo Lake 500-kilovolt transmission line, which connects with BPA's existing Echo Lake Substation in the Maple Valley area of Washington. The line is needed to ensure reliable electrical power for Puget Sound area customers and others within the Northwest.

There is an increased risk of forced curtailment of power that could occur during a severe weather event. By winter of 2005, the region is at risk even during a "normal" cold winter.

Working with the Community

BPA outreach activities have focused on early involvement from elected officials, government agencies, tribes, property owners, environmental interest groups and

community organizations. BPA and the city of Seattle reached agreement on constructing this line through the Cedar River Municipal Watershed in July 2003 and partnered with a third party environmental consultant to monitor construction activities. The city of Seattle, Seattle Public Utilities and BPA worked closely together on construction activities to ensure watershed protection.

BPA is committed to preserving water quality in the watershed, protecting species outlined in the Habitat Conservation Plan, and minimizing design and construction impacts.

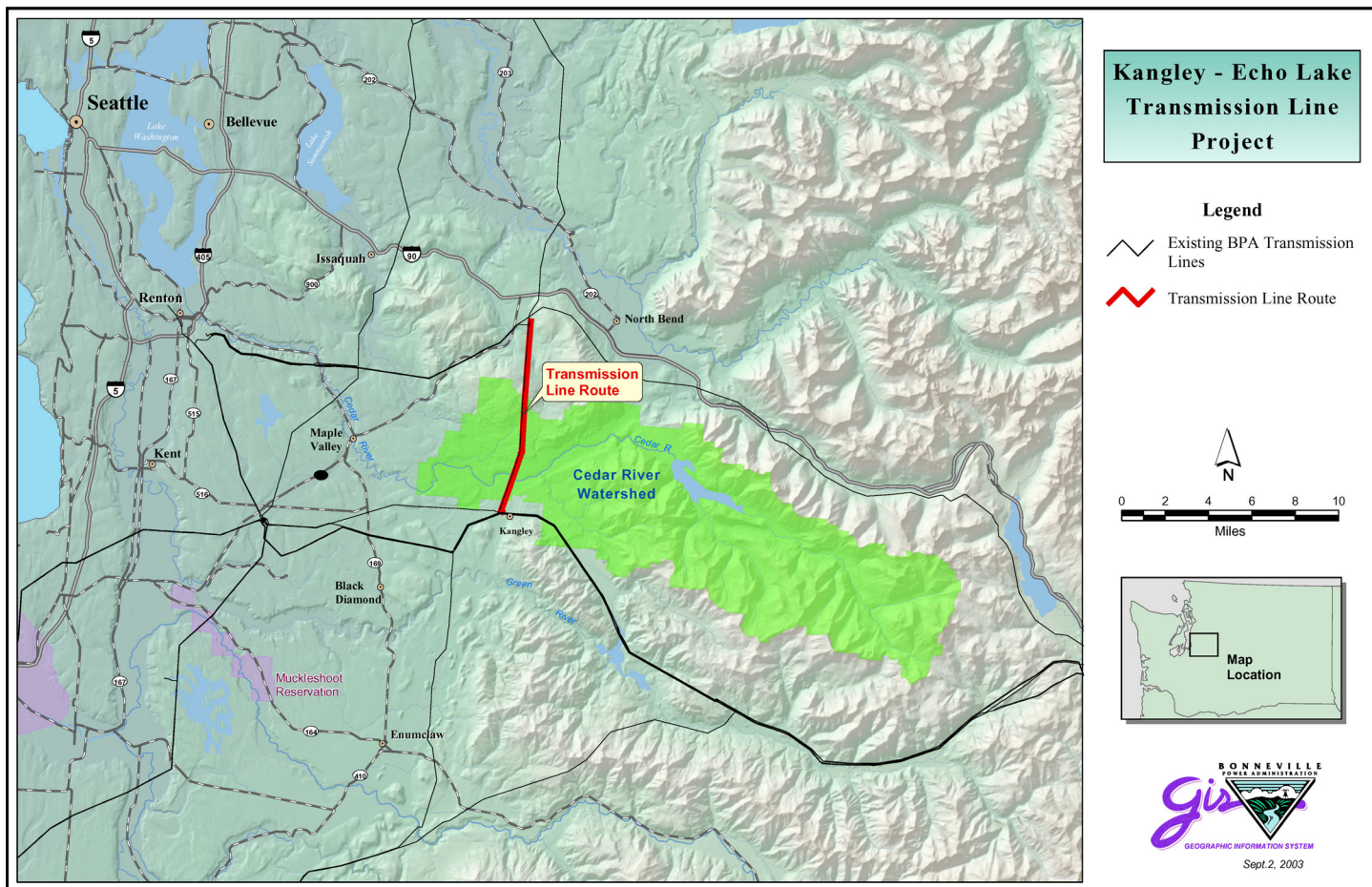
Selected Alternative

BPA analyzed several transmission line routing alternatives in a supplemental draft environmental impact statement, including: routes inside and outside of the watershed, and a no-action and non-transmission alternative. BPA selected Alternative 1, a 500-kV, nine-mile long, single-circuit transmission line that will begin near the community of Kangley and connect with BPA's existing Echo Lake Substation (see map). The selected route crosses five miles of the watershed. The line was built next to an existing BPA 500-kV transmission line and required 47 new towers (average tower height is about 135 feet). Echo Lake Substation was expanded and new equipment was installed.

Environmental Planning

As BPA designed this project, special attention was focused on minimizing disruption to people, habitat, farm and harvesting activities, and business operations. An environmental impact statement was developed for this project to look at alignment alternatives and mitigation issues. The EIS focuses on protecting, restoring





This map shows the selected route for the new 500-kV transmission line, primarily on existing right-of-way.

and enhancing the natural environment, and requesting public comment on project alternatives. Some of the key project milestones:

- Scoping. BPA held public meetings in 2000 to identify possible issues and concerns on the project.
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement. BPA completed a draft EIS and released it for public review in June 2001. The draft EIS recommended ways to reduce adverse effects. BPA held a public meeting in August 2001 to receive comments on the draft EIS.
- Supplemental draft EIS. BPA heard concerns from citizens and environmental groups about the transmission line being constructed in the watershed. Based on those concerns, BPA produced a supplemental draft EIS that reviewed in more detail all of the alternatives. The supplemental draft EIS was released on Jan. 14, 2003, followed by public meetings in February 2003.
- Final Environmental Impact Statement. The final EIS responded to comments received on the draft EIS and supplemental draft EIS. The final EIS was released in June 2003.

- Decision. The record of decision was released July 21, 2003.

Funding and Schedule

BPA funded this project. Construction started in July 2003 and the line was completed and energized on Dec. 31, 2003. BPA's construction goals for this project were to minimize disturbance to the natural environment, have no impact to drinking water quality, enhance overall fish and wildlife habitat, and improve electrical reliability in the Puget Sound region.

Questions or Comments

If you have questions or would like more information about the project, please contact BPA Project Manager Lou Driessen toll free at 1-888-276-7790 or visit TBL's Web site at http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/.